

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

setting section to be used by a user for setting, as a copying mode, a writing space mode in which a document image
5 in a preset number are printed on a half of a single paper sheet, thus forming a writing space on the other half of the paper sheet, and

image forming section for printing the document image in the preset number on a half of a single paper sheet when the
10 writing space mode has been set as a copying mode.

2. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

the setting section includes means to be used by a user for setting whether or not a page separating line is put on the
15 paper sheet when the writing space mode has been set, and

the image forming section includes means for printing a page separating line at each boundary between adjacent document images printed on a paper sheet and at each boundary between a document image printed on the paper sheet and the writing space
20 when the writing space mode has been set as a copying mode and it has been set to put a page separating line.

3. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

the setting section includes means to be used by a user
25 for setting whether or not rules are put in the writing space

when the writing space mode has been set, and

the image forming section includes means for printing rules
in the writing space formed on the paper sheet when the writing
space mode has been set as a copying mode and it has been set
5 to put rules in the writing space.

4. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

consolidation mode setting section for setting, as a
copying mode, a consolidation mode in which a preset plurality
10 of documents are consolidatedly printed on a single paper sheet
and in which a separating line is put at each boundary between
adjacent document images on the paper sheet, the consolidation
mode being arranged such that the printing area of a paper sheet
is divided into sub-areas of which number corresponds to the
15 preset document number, and that each document image is printed
in each sub-area;

means for judging each pair of two adjacent sub-areas of
the printing area of a paper sheet whether or not both two adjacent
sub-areas of each pair result in blank portions when the
20 consolidation mode has been set by the consolidation mode setting
section and the number of documents to be printed on a single
paper sheet is smaller than the preset number; and

image forming section for forming, on a single paper sheet,
an image in which a plurality of documents are being con-
25 solidatedly assembled and in which a separating line is being

put at each boundary between adjacent document images when the consolidation mode has been set as a copying mode,

the image forming section including comprising means arranged not to put a separating line at the boundary between
5 two adjacent sub-areas when the judging means has judged that these two adjacent sub-areas result in blank portions.